



**Academic Magnet
High School**

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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May 10, 2022

Hello Junior Parents!

Juniors Take Flight will be held Friday, May 27th from 8:30am-1:30pm in the Judith Peterson lecture hall at Academic Magnet High School.

Juniors Take Flight, a “crash course” College Application Bootcamp, was developed by the AMHS School Improvement Council (SIC) in conjunction with our parent groups, the school counseling department, and administration. Thanks to funding from your donations to AMHS Foundation and PIE, Juniors Take Flight is being offered **FREE!**

While this takes place on an exam opt out morning for many juniors, we strongly encourage your student to attend this program. We will have snacks, lunch, and exciting raffle prizes! Your child will be provided with tools to face the college application process with more confidence, less stress, and better preparation.

Topics to be covered include:

- Important deadlines and what they all mean
- How to separate yourself from the pack
- What you are looking for in a college vs. what a college is looking for in you
- Selecting the “right” colleges for YOU
- Creating a resume for teacher recommendations
- 90 minute essay writing workshop on how to brainstorm, structure and draft an Outstanding Personal Statement
- More important student tools for the application process

Our speakers are local and national experts on the College application process:

- **Alex Park** is owner of Food for Thought Educational Strategies and Sherpa Educational Consulting in Mt. Pleasant. Alex has guided numerous AMHS students on their academic journey and through the college application process, helping them secure admission to their top choice schools. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 2013 with a BA in Russian Language and Literature. He then worked at T&B Education as an SAT Verbal instructor, curriculum developer, college consultant, and AP US History teacher. In 2017 he opened Food for Thought – Education Strategies.
- **Bertrand (Bert) Hudnall** is the author of “Cutting through the Chaos of College Admissions.” He was educated at the Washington and Lee University and University of Virginia. His work experience includes teaching English at Darlington School (GA) and Virginia Episcopal School (VA), Headmaster/College Counselor at Salem Academy (NC) and North Cross School (VA), Director of Admissions at Randolph-Macon Woman's College (VA) and College Advisor at Ashley Hall and Charleston Charter School for Math and Science. He is an officer in several national and regional college counseling organizations and presenter at numerous meetings. Bert stresses the importance of making the college search a

process...moving forward all the time. His goal is to help students and parents “tackle the college search with more confidence and a greater likelihood of success.” Every student attendee will be given a copy of his book.

- **Lyn Fairchild Hawks** (she/her) is college essay specialist with the College Essay Guy. She is an experienced essay coach and loves helping students tell cinematic stories. She is a graduate of Stanford University with a B.A. in English and an M.A. in Education, and currently is an MFA candidate at the Vermont College of Fine Arts program in Writing for Children and Young Adults. As someone juggling critiques from agents and editors, she understands what it’s like to wrestle with feedback and make deep revisions. For 15 years she designed and ran online programs for gifted youth at Duke University and loves personalizing writing activities for students as well as training teachers.

We know it is the end of the year and heading into a holiday weekend, but we expect the topics covered during Juniors Take Flight will prove invaluable as our students begin their college application process!

Students can RSVP through the Junior Canvas page. We look forward to seeing them on Friday, May 27th and sending our rising seniors off for the 2022 summer confidently prepared to embark on their college application journey!

If you have any questions, about this program, please reach out to Ms. McCall at danielle_mccall@charleston.k12.sc.us.

Thank you,



Jacob Perlmutter, Principal